[30th January 1936

Need for the employment of a first-class Health Officer for research work during the year 1934–35.

* 595 *Q.*—Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) the necessity for a first-class Health Officer for research work and the nature of the research work done during the year 1934–35; and

(*b*) whether this work cannot be turned out by the existing staff in the King Institute, Guindy, with the aid of Assistant Directors; if not, why not?

A.—(*a*) The improvement effected in the registration of vital statistics disclosed that apart from epidemic diseases, there are others such as beri-beri, guinea-worm, leprosy and diet deficiency diseases which on account of the mortality or morbidity caused by them are of great importance from the standpoint of public health. As the information available regarding the etiology, geographical distribution and other factors associated with these diseases is extremely vague, it was considered necessary to conduct research work as to the causation and prevention of these diseases and also to complete the research work on plague done in this Presidency under the auspices of the Indian Research Fund Association. A Research Health Officer in the grade of First-class Health Officer has accordingly been appointed. An account of the work done by him during 1934–35 will be found in paragraphs 74–77 of the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health, Madras, for 1934.

(*b*) The work done by the units in the King Institute, Guindy, is mainly concerned with the etiology, diagnosis and possible prevention of the diseases. The work done by the Research Health Officer is on the other hand entirely non-epidemiological in character involving a detailed study of social conditions, etc., and also a detailed statistical analysis of the data so obtained; it is not possible to combine the work of the two units. In fact, the work of the two units is really complementary for any complete investigation of these diseases.

As research work requires constant attention and freedom from extraneous interferences of any kind necessitating stay out of headquarters for prolonged periods extending to months, it will not be possible for the Assistant Directors to devote enough time for the above research work.

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—" May I know the names of the districts to which the units have been posted? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" Notice, Sir."